



April ~ May ~ June 2008

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President's Message *with Joe Cruz*

Tuesday, March 11 we kicked off our first sign-ups for the State fair and our first General Membership Meeting of the year. First I'd like to thank our membership for their tremendous support and contribution. To our new members, welcome. This should be the start of some exciting things for the Friends of the California State Fair. There were a lot of Friends that showed up for our first sign-up so there was a lot of activity. But if you weren't able to make the first sign-up don't worry we will be having another sign-up next month which you will read in this newsletter. During the sign-ups we were able to visit with one another and we discussed different things in the upcoming State Fair. Afterwards we were able to have some coffee and cake before starting the General Membership Meeting. As our membership has grown to over 200 people it is rewarding that so many of you stayed for the meeting. We have two general meetings throughout the year; one at the beginning and one at the end of the year which gives our membership a chance to see your board in operation. As your newsletter reaches you take your time in reading the articles as it has information on the upcoming events and plans that are in store for you. From me and the board we look forward to an exciting year.

Past President *with Harry Moos*

Dear Friends, we have had our first sign-ups on March 11, and we are off and running. As all of you I hope are aware we also have kicked off our Scholarship program and the deadline was March 21, 2008. We will award 32 scholarships

this year in the following areas: arts, general studies, agriculture, international studies, teaching, credential programs, fair management, business, sports management, history, viticulture and culinary. We will have more sign-ups in April, May and June on the 2nd Tuesday of the month. I know we are going to have a great year because of each of you! More to come on what we are to expect at this year's fair; keep looking at www.bigfun.org and reading this newsletter.

Vice President *with Anne Jones*

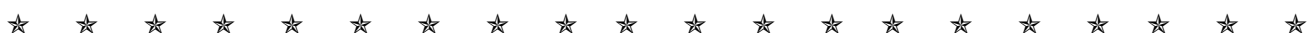
Hi All – Well, we had great fun at this year’s first meeting and sign-ups. It’s always exciting to see people that you enjoy every summer but haven’t seen for a few months. Like when you went back to school in the fall after a summer with the whole neighborhood gang!

Those at the meeting saw our new idea for the Friends uniform...a wonderful denim apron with the Friends logo embroidered on the front bib and three large pockets across the bottom. These aprons will last longer than our previous shirts since they don't have to be laundered continually and they cost about ½ of what new shirts cost (such as the yellow or dark blue ones we had in the past). We will make our decision within the next couple months, but it will be great for all of us to be in the same uniform!

We have hosted a bingo session for Senior Fridays the past 2 years and this year it's going to be bigger and better. We are hoping it will be in this year's program and we are looking into having it more centrally located than the grandstand...possibly in the Cantina area under Expo #1. Watch for more info on this fun event!

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2008 California State Fair ~ August 15-September 1, 2008



Snack Shack & Misc *with Mark Kramer*

Spring has sprung and the California State Fair is right around the corner. The planning is in full swing. I want to thank the large group that turned out for the first State Fair sign-ups before the membership meeting on March 11th and those who stayed for the meeting. Don't forget that there are still many shifts available and I'm sure more will be added as we get closer to fair time. Shifts can change monthly so feel free to come all the sign-ups to see what's new even if you have already signed up. Don't wait until orientation. Get your shifts NOW! Also keep in mind that all shifts are not during the regular fair dates or hours. To find out about these fun "behind the scenes" shifts come to the monthly sign-ups and talk to Pam.

It was good to see many of you returning to work at the Snack Shack. Last year was way too cozy but we had a good time. This year we are going to have more space and be more visible. We will be selling some of the old favorites and hopefully some new items. We are in the process of looking for new products. I'm sure that Coca-Cola will have some new items that will be exclusive to the Snack Shack and the Coke Booth. If anyone has any ideas for new stuff or have contacts that would be willing to help us get a good price or a donation of products please contact me. Remember, our focus is California grown and a healthier alternative to fair food at a price attractive to our customers. This year we will also be assisting Cal Expo in sampling some of California's fine farm products. Items have not been finalized but could include fruits, veggies, nuts or meats. The sampling will be in short sessions (not all day) and the portions will be small, just enough to draw a crowd and stimulate their appetites. I think this will help draw more people to our booth and increase the awareness of "California Grown."

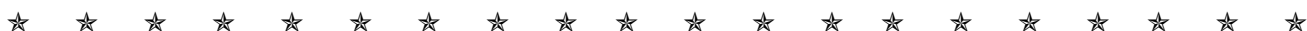
It looks like it's shaping up to be another year of Big Fun. With everyone's help I think the Snack Shack will have its best year yet. Maybe we will beat the Coke booth.

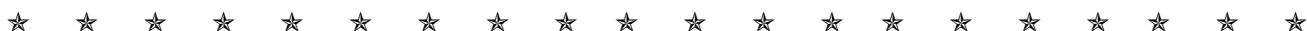
See You There!



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Pre-Fair Stuff *with Pam Howard*

The first sign up went very well. The Grape & Gourmet and Gala are filled. If you could not make the meeting, do not despair: there are plenty of opportunities for you to participate. The Sacramento County Fair is Memorial Day weekend. Volunteers are needed to receive entries, clerk for judges, and just walk around during the Fair inside Bldg "D" to answer questions and to ensure the safety of the exhibits. Both morning and afternoon shifts are available for the activities preceding the County Fair, and for the Fair itself.

People are still needed for the Farm Tours on Tuesdays and Thursdays in April and May. The Farm Tours are great fun: you are teaching 5-9 year old children how food is grown, where our clothes come from, and the importance of proper nutrition. There are still opportunities for people to participate in Fair Time Farm events. The Vet School is back on Saturdays this year: it is an opportunity for children 12 – 17 to learn what it takes to become a veterinarian. There are the Farm tours on Tuesdays: designed for grades 1 – 4, these are guided tours which will educate about California Agriculture. Also back this year are the Day Time and Overnight Farm Camps: for children 6 – 12, the camps offer hands-on activities, demonstrations, and stories around the campfire. Theresa McEntire, Cal Expo's Demonstration Farm program director, is very excited about the Friends participation and plans to be at the April 8 sign-ups to answer any lingering questions you may have.

Youth Creative Art and Industrial Education have been combined into Building 1 at the Expo Center for this year's California State Fair, so more people are needed this year to help with check-in and judging. In the California Kitchen, Mondays have become a judging day, along with Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays, so there

is no excuse for you to not get in on the kitchen activities. This year a new Youth cupcake competition has been added called "Baby Cakes", on Tuesday, August 19. The kids have so much fun decorating cupcakes; this competition promises to be very exciting. The food competitions are MY personal favorite, so you know my name is down already, with lots of lines open for YOU to participate!

The Food competition along with the Creative Arts Show is our connection to the past when County and State Fairs were an exhibition of the art of the people, not just entertainment. So few people have the time and inclination to preserve food, make cakes, sew quilts, and carve wood that much of the expertise is in danger of being lost forever, and must be on an Endangered Arts list somewhere. I get all nostalgic when I think of the love that my Aunt put into her quilts, or that Grandma put into her apple butter. Here is your opportunity to be part of the movement to keep those valuable skills alive. Mark your calendars to come to the next sign up on April 8, at 6 PM. If you can't make one of the regular meetings, call me, (916) 837-0345, or Dixie (916) 416-1865, and we will be happy to discuss dates and times that will fit into your busy schedule! You can also email me at phoward@smud.org. Dixie can be reached at landoctn@surewest.net.



Mark Your Calendar

Sign-Ups for 2008 California State Fair

Tuesday, April 8 ~ 6-7 pm

Tuesday, May 13 ~ 6-7 pm

Tuesday, June 10 ~ 6-7 pm

All sign-ups will be at the Admin Bldg; use side entrance.

Friends of the California State Fair Orientation

Saturday, August 9

Grape & Gourmet

Thursday, July 10

Gala

Friday, August 8



Friends of the California State Fair ★
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